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Calendar No. 22.

65TH CONGRESS, *1st Session.* } SENATE. { REPORT 22, Part 2.

UNIVERSAL LIABILITY TO MILITARY SERVICE.

APRIL 21, 1917.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. MCKELLAR, from the Committee on Military Affairs, submitted the following

MINORITY REPORT.

The minority of the Military Affairs Committee of the Senate disagree with the majority, in that the bill as reported does not provide for the calling out of volunteers under the volunteer army act which was passed by the Congress and approved April 25, 1914.

The minority very earnestly believe that there ought to be a provision calling for 500,000 volunteers at this time in connection with the proposed draft. They supported the amendment offered in the committee by Mr. McKellar providing as follows:

Amend, by adding as a separate section after the second division of the first section and after line 20, on page 2 of the bill, the following:

"That the President be, and he is hereby, authorized to raise 500,000 volunteers under the provisions of 'An act to provide for the raising of the Volunteer forces of the United States in times of actual or threatened war,' approved April 25, 1914, in so far as the same is not inconsistent with the terms of this act, and shall immediately call out and train 500,000 volunteers. Should that number not enlist in 90 days all deficiencies shall be secured by draft as herein provided.'"

The reasons actuating the minority are, among others, as follows:

1. One of the best military assets of the country consists of those men over 25 years of age who have seen service, (*a*) in the Regular Army, (*b*) in the Spanish-American War. (*c*) in the National Guard, (*d*) in the military colleges of the country, (*e*) those who have been trained in the various training camps heretofore provided by law. All of these classes of citizens would be excluded from the draft under the terms of this bill. We believe that we should not lose these military assets. We have spent much money in training them and we ought not throw them away.

2. Under the terms of the bill without this amendment the major portion of the additional army raised would be composed of boys who have not attained their majority. It is all right, no doubt, to

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use these boys in connection with maturer men in the Army, but to use these boys to the exclusion of older men and more experienced men, is, to our mind, a very dangerous policy in view of the fact that we have got to send these boys against trained German troops. There will be about a million of these boys subject to conscription who are not even old enough to make a contract under our laws.

3. The traditions and history of our people favor the volunteer system. We have had five wars, all of them fought under the volunteer system; and all of them we won. This Nation has never lost a war. The volunteer spirit is bred into the people. The men of the United States are willing to volunteer now and are anxious to volunteer now, and ought to be given an opportunity to do so rather than be conscripted into the service. The minority believes with the President that the conscription feature should go into this bill, but it does not believe it should exclude the enlistment of volunteers, and does believe the volunteer system first should be well tried out.

4. Secretary Baker testified that in the event of the passage of the bill without the volunteer feature it would take until August to enumerate and equip the men fit for service under the terms of the bill and it would be that time before we could begin to organize. We believe that now is the time to organize, and if a call for volunteers were made we would have men drilling and preparing themselves for service within 30 days.

5. We believe that men who volunteer their services are better fighters than those who are conscripted into the Army. England has more than 4,000,000 volunteers in the field to-day. She resorted to conscription only as a last resort to get more men. Had she done otherwise she would have been torn with internal disorder. Canada has never resorted to conscription. She has more than 400,000 volunteers, 300,000 of them being in Europe.

6. The organization of 500,000 Volunteers under the terms of the amendment need not in the slightest degree interfere with the organization of the drafted Army as proposed in the bill, and will not do so.

7. The proposition that if we call out 500,000 volunteers it would make our Army half volunteer and half conscript, and therefore undesirable, is without force, because we now have about 300,000 troops in the Regular Army and in the National Guard who are volunteers. It is not proposed by the staff bill to change these forces, and so our Army will be part volunteer and part conscript, whether we had a provision for volunteers or not.

8. From our understanding of the testimony of Secretary Baker and Gen. Crowder, it is evident that under the present law Volunteers may be received in the National Guard and in the Regular Army to the extent, probably, of more than a half million men, still it was also evident from their testimony that if the conscript bill passes without amendment it is not intended or expected by the War Department that these Volunteers will be actually enlisted. On the contrary, it is expected to fill up the Regular Army and the National Guard with the conscripted troops.

C. S. THOMAS.
KENNETH MCKELLAR.
JAS A. REED.
W. F. KIRBY.

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I concur in the above to the extent of favoring an amendment providing for the simultaneous employment of both the volunteer and conscription methods of raising an emergency army.

In employing the method of conscription, however, I do not believe that 19-year-old boys should be taken. I think no men less than 21 years of age should be included. There are enough adults without taking boys against their will and without the consent of their parents.

G. M. Hitchcock.

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